

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

1. Discussion of Claim Amendments

By way of the amendment instructions above, minor clarifying revisions have been proposed to claim 14 to clarify that the plywood is comprised of at least two wood veneer layers and at least one adhesive layer. The dependency of claim 17 has been corrected so it is now dependent from claim 16.

Accordingly, following entry of this amendment, claims 1-17 will remain pending herein for which favorable reconsideration and allowance are solicited.

2. Response to 35 USC §102(b) Rejections

Prior claims 1-17 attracted rejections under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by either WO 01/38416 (WO '416) or USP 4,362,827 to Thinkelenberg (US '827). Applicants respectfully disagree.

What should not be overlooked when reviewing the patentability of the present invention is that **plywood** and methods of making **plywood** are defined by the presently pending claims. In this regard, as noted on page 2, lines 8-10, the term "plywood" is meant to connote a structure having at least two wood veneer layers and at least one adhesive layer (between the wood veneer layers). Significantly, the term "plywood" does *not* refer to oriented strand board (OSB) wherein wood particles or chips and adhesive are mixed with one another so that the mixture itself forms a layer or the board itself is made entirely of such a mixture.

The Examiner seems to be of the opinion that the claimed ratios are included within the broadest interpretation of the WO '416 disclosure. Thus, it seems in this regard that the Examiner is basing his views on the calculations of the Written Opinion

of the international Searching Authority (copy attached). Such calculations are, however, incorrect as they were performed on “Treatment 5 of Table 3 of Example 3.” Example 3 is concerned with the preparation of *composite panels* which are products with surface layers having wood fibers plus a melamine –urea-formaldehyde (MUF) binder and a core layer of wood strands plus MUF plus MDI. (See page 8, lines 22+ of the WO ‘416 publication.) In contrast, the presently claimed invention is directed to a **plywood** comprised of wood veneer layers and an adhesive layer (between the two veneer layers). Thus, no reliance can be made on the calculations that were advanced by the International Searching Authority for these reasons.

All the examples of the WO ‘416 publication are directed to composite panels. None deal with **plywood**. Quantitative instructions on how to use the teachings of WO ‘416 are present only in the examples which, as noted previously, deal with composite panels and not plywood. Moreover, WO ‘416 solves the problem of formaldehyde emission by the addition of isocyanate which is not a necessary component in the plywood structures of the present invention.

US ‘827 deals with the preparation of so-called “chipboard” material which is completely different from plywood. Specifically, in the preparation of a chipboard product, chip material is mixed with a bonding agent and pressed into a sheet. Also a polyisocyanate is needed, next to the aminoplast resin which is not needed in the present invention.

Thus, since neither the WO ‘416 publication nor US ‘827 deal with any issues regarding the preparation of **plywood** materials, they cannot anticipate the presently claimed invention. Moreover, one would not obviously arrive at the presently claimed invention from the disclosures of such publications as none is suggestive of the molar F/(NH₂)₂ and/or molar F/T ratios of the adhesive layer as defined in the pending claims.

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Withdrawal of the rejections advanced under 35 USC §102(b) based on the WO
'416 publication and US '827 is in order.

3. Fee Authorization

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

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